DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.—(*contd.*)

President: Order, order. The demand under General Administration will now be taken up.

Mr. G. Revi Varma: I suggest that Demands 4, 5 and 6 may be taken together so that members get more time to discuss. I find this was done in the last Council.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: But No. 5 is Financial Secretariat, Sir.

President: I take it that your idea is that honourable members should get a larger number of opportunities. It is a matter entirely left to the house. If the honourable member wants that procedure to be adopted, the Chair has no objection. Is it the general desire of the House?

Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): On a point of order, Sir. It is not proper to include No. 5.....

President: Demands 4 and 6 may be moved together. Of course, I am speaking subject to correction, but there is nothing to be said in regard to No. 5. 4 and 6 are moved by the Chief Secretary, and so they will be grouped together.

Mr. K. C. Chandy: If you would permit me, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice an article published in the Kerala Kaumudi today. The article is a review of a book written by you, and entitled 'World Religions'. I am not accusing the writer of the article in making a review of the book but I am bringing to your notice that his privilege to make a review of a publication by you should not be availed of for casting aspersions and charges on the Catholic clergy.

President: But what has this House or the Government to do in this matter?

One Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar published a book which consists of a series of reviews printed in the Indian Review of Madras, which was published in Travancore also. That is entirely a private work done by a particular individual in his personal capacity. Attempts have been made to make it out that the book is going to be prescribed as a textbook or that unfortunate students are being compelled to read it. A complete denial has been made of such assertions because it would be both lunacy and criminal to make a Dewan's publication a text book or to ask anybody to read it compulsorily. The question whether a newspaper publishes a review on that does not concern this House. I have not seen the paper or heard of it till now.

Mr. K. C. Chandy: My complaint is that it is an article making a charge on the Catholic Clergy as being guilty of spilling blood and making sacrifice of human lives.

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President : If a statement which is wrong, is published, it is quite open to the Catholic clergy to move in the matter and ask the Government to prosecute the Editor for inflaming communal prejudice and discontent, and Government, if so advised by their Legal Remembrancer, will take the necessary steps. But what has that got to do with this House? Supposing a newspaper, let us say in Madras or in Trivandrum or in Kottayam, publishes a note either praising or fiercely attacking a publication, what has the honourable members of this house got to do with that?

Mr. K. C. Chandy : I was relying on a precedent in the other house whereby an article in 'Universe' was brought to the notice of that House.

President : No, no. That was a very, very different matter. A Catholic newspaper in London stated that this State had taken certain steps namely to prescribe that particular book as a text book, which was a false statement. That Catholic newspaper in London made another statement that certain memorialists of a socalled memorial were forced to resign from the Legislature. That was a false statement. It also made the statement that every attempt was made in the State to see that those memorialists were not returned to the Legislature. That was another false statement. And these statements were considered to be derogatory to the dignity and the prestige of the State and therefore objection was taken to them. But whether a particular individual, whatever his position may be, wrote a book, which is either a foolish one or which is not a foolish one, it is a matter in which the administration is not concerned. As a matter of fact, honourable members will see that various persons.—I do not want to compare big things with small-most of the members of the Cabinet have written books fiercely criticising the Soviet regime and the Catholic religions and the toleration given to certain Catholic sections by the British Government, and these things are not taken as part of their administrative activities. I do not understand what the honourable member means. What is your complaint?

Mr. K. C. Chandy : I was availing of this opportunity to bring to your notice that the article is likely to promote communal hatred.

President : Is it to my notice as President of the Council or as Dewan of the State?

Mr. K. C. Chandy : As the Dewan-President.

President : As Dewan I have only administrative duties to discharge. My right to write any book I like or to pass any opinion I like on any religion, is a matter which cannot be

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[President.]

affected by the circumstance that I am the Dewan. If the Catholic clergy or the public feel they have anything against those opinions and if they think I am unfit for the position, they are at perfect liberty to treat me so and His Highness is at perfact liberty to deal with me as His Highness feels fit.

But apart from that, I am glad to be able to inform this house that the Catholic clergy themselves have strongly disapproved of that paper and they have written a portest to the Universe. The Catholic clergy, or at all events, some of them, have protested against the publication made in London and reproduced in Calcutta and stated that it is derogatory to the State and that they are bound to insert a statement asking for a withdrawl of it.

Mr. K. C. Chandy: A word of explanation, Sir. I never wanted to criticise the publication of your book. What I wanted to bring to the notice of the Chair was that the statement which is calculated to prejudice the interests of the State in so far as the writer was casting aspersions on a community within the State, such as being guilty of spilling blood etc, should not be allowed to stand.

President: If, as a matter of fact, that paper has been guilty of such conduct, I may assure the house, now that the matter has been raised, though irrelevantly and irregularly on the floor of the House, that the publication will be scrutinised by the Legal Remembrancer and if there is any attempt to arouse what may be called communal feeling this Government will certainly set its face against it.

Mr K. C. Chandy: Thank you, Sir.

DEMAND IV—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—EXCLUDING FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT, ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND LOCAL FUND AUDIT DEPARTMENT, AND DEMAND VI—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 4,49,855 under Demand IV—General Administration, excluding Financial Secretariat, Accountant Generals' Office, Legislative Bodies and Local Fund Audit Department; and for Rs. 88,691 under Demand VI—General Administration—Legislative Bodies.

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